

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 RSC-01 DRC-01 /032 W

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R 261200Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, GB

SUBJ: VISAS FOR AMERICANS COMING TO GABON: DRAIZIN

ARRIVAL

REF: STATE 230600

1. EMBASSY ALWAYS WILLING TO ARRANGE NECESSARY EMERGENCY AIRPORT
VISAS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO DO SO FOR DRAIZIN.

2. WISH POINT OUT HOWEVER THAT EACH AIRPORT VISA
REQUEST MADE REDUCES RESERVOIR OF LOCAL GOODWILL WHICH
EMBASSY BELIEVES MUST BE MAINTAINED FOR UNUSUAL OR
EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES, SOMETHING WE FIND DIFFICULT
TO SEE IN DRAIZIN CASE.

3. PRESUME DRAIZIN KNOWS THAT GABONESE VISAS EASILY
OBTAINABLE AT GOG EMBASSY PARIS. CIRCUMSTANCES
EVIDENTLY DO NOT ALLOW HIM TO TAKE FEW HOURS OUT OF
HIS SCHEDULE TO OBTAIN VISA THERE.

4. SINCE PRESIDENT BONGO'S AUGUST 7 LETTER TO GOG
AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON ORDERING HIM TO GIVE BUSINESSMEN
VISAS WITHOUT CLEARING WITH LIBREVILLE, WE HAVE NOT
HEARD OF VISA PROBLEMS FROM BUSINESSMEN WHO APPLY IN
WASHINGTON. PRESUMABLY DRAIZIN COULD NOT GET TO
WASHINGTON.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT STATE/COMMERCE MAKE CERTAIN
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BUSINESS VISITORS TO GABON AWARE OF GENERALLY EXPEDITIOUS

VISA ISSUANCES THROUGH GOG EMBASSIES WASHINGTON AND PARIS. WITH FLOW OF VISITORS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSGABON RAILROAD INCREASING, WE WILL BE HARD-PRESSED TO MAINTAIN LEVEL OF OTHER IMPORTANT SERVICES TO BUSINESSMEN IF EXCESSIVE TIME SPENT IN LIASON WITH MFA AND AIRPORT OFFICIALS. AT THE SAME TIME WE WILL MAINTAIN PRESSURE FROM THIS END TO INSURE THAT GOG INSTRUCTS ITS EMBASSIES ABROAD TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH VISAS TO US BUSINESS VISITORS.MCKESSON

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